GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:23
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
HUMAN CLONING
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has morally rejected the concept of Human Cloning in the United Nations Legislative Committee and at the same supported the alternative of stem cells;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the arguments put forth in favour and against this proposal, country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) : Yes Sir. The country has not approved reproductive cloning. However, stem cell research has been permitted for therapeutic purpose as per the policy/guidelines laid down by Government of India.

(b) : As per the policy, stem cell research should be promoted in the country in view of its clinical use. There are no special legal or ethical problems in respect to stem cells derived from adults, bone marrows or foetal cord blood. However, in respect to embryonic stem cells, embryos should not be generated for the sole purpose of obtaining stem cells. Only surplus or spare or supernumerary embryos can be used with the permission of couples from registered Assisted Reproductive Technique(ART), clinics.

(c) : The views of the countries can be placed in two categories. One group recommended a ban on both reproductive and therapeutic cloning. The other group while endorsing a ban on reproductive cloning supported research on therapeutic cloning. Further, consultation to achieve a consensus is scheduled for February 2005.